
**Fort Campbell Environmental Handbook
Guidance and Instructions
Environmental Analysis and Documentation
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

1. Purpose and Scope:

NEPA is our nation's basic charter for protection of the environment. NEPA of 1969 requires all Federal agencies to give appropriate consideration to environmental effects of proposed actions in their planning and decision making, and to prepare detailed statements regarding such considerations and the resulting recommendations for major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. NEPA establishes policy, sets goals and provides means for carrying out the policy. It contains "Action-forcing" provisions to make sure that Federal agencies act according to the letter and spirit of the law..

2. References:

- a. AR 200-1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement, 23 April 1990.
- b. AR 200-2, Environmental Effects of Army Actions, 23 December 1988.
- c. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508.
- d. Federal Registers Vol. 67, No. 61 pages 15289 – 15321 Friday, March 29, 2002 (32 CFR 651).

3. Definitions: None

4. General:

There are essentially four levels of environmental documentation. Regardless of the cost, size or nature of a proposed action, its environmental impact must be considered. The type of documentation usually depends on the nature of the proposed action and its potential environmental impacts.

5. Responsibility:

- a. AR 200-1 and AR 200-2 require the proponent of an action to make an assessment of the potential environmental impact of that proposed action.
- b. The environmental documentation process should be initiated as early as possible in the planning stages in order to evaluate the environmental impact of the action prior to execution.
- c. In general, the proponent is the lowest level decision maker. It is the unit, element, or organization that is responsible for initiating and/or carrying out the proposal action. The proponent has the responsibility to prepare and/or secure funding for preparation of the environmental documentation.

6. Guidance and Instruction:

The levels of review and documentation are as follows:

- a. All proposed actions must undergo the first level of review that involves the deliberate and conscientious assessment of the potential environmental impact of a proposed action. Written documentation, is not always required. For example, routine training within the annual training

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cycle requires no documentation whereas a major field exercise employing visiting units, aircraft support, new weapons, etc., requires preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) early in the planning process.

b. The next level involves the same review of potential impacts plus written documentation called a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC), Appendix C. In addition to the REC, Fort Campbell uses a four-page REC checklist (Appendix D) to assess the environmental impact and to establish the mitigation measures of the proposed action. An REC is used when the proposed action is exempt from the total requirements of NEPA, such as those on the list of Categorical Exclusions (CX) shown in Appendix A. (Most actions are categorically excluded from requiring documentation because of little potential impact on the environment.)

c. The third level involves preparation of an EA, to determine the extent of environmental impact of a project and to decide whether or not that impact is significant. It is not required for actions that are subject to categorical exclusion. An EA, also, will determine whether or not an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required.

d. An EIS, the fourth level, will not be discussed here since most are very detailed, extensive and require the Army COE assistance in preparation.

e. The proponent (i.e., the unit, element or organization that is responsible for initiating and/or carrying out the proposed action) is responsible for preparing and securing funding for preparation of the environmental documentation. The proponent may or may not be the preparer. The Environmental Division of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) will advise/assist in preparation of required environmental documentation. The actions normally requiring an EA are found in Appendix B.

7. Additional Guidance:

a. For additional guidance and information, and answers to your questions, contact Bill Bartlett, PWBC Environmental Division, 798-9858

b. For future reference, place this document behind *Tab number 4* in your Fort Campbell Environmental Handbook.